

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A balloon dilation catheter comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;

an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire along at least a portion of its length, the second lumen having a first opening in ~~the~~ a proximal region of the tubular member; ~~and~~

a first slit disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the first slit comprising a first pair of longitudinal edges in a side by side relationship, the

tubular member being constructed of a resilient material such that, as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen, the longitudinal edges are biased open from a first position to a second position having a gap greater than or equal a diameter of the guidewire, wherein the second lumen: (i) further comprises a second opening disposed between a distal end of the first slit and the inflatable balloon, and (ii) is circumferentially continuous in the region of the tubular member between the second opening and the inflatable balloon; and

an adapter attached to the proximal region of the tubular member, the adaptor comprising a valve having a second slit and third lumen for receiving the guidewire, the second lumen and the third lumen in communication with one another.

Claim 2 (Original) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein, in the first position, the first pair of longitudinal edges are in an abutting relationship.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein, in the first position, the first pair of longitudinal edges are in spaced

relationship, a space between the longitudinal edges being less than the diameter of the guidewire.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the first slit extends from the first opening to adjacent the second opening.

Claims 5-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the second slit comprises a second pair of longitudinal edges in a side by side relationship, the valve being constructed of a resilient material such that, as the guidewire is separated from the third lumen, the longitudinal edges are biased open from a first position to a second position having a gap greater than or equal a diameter of the guidewire.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 7, wherein, in the first position, the second pair of longitudinal edges are in an abutting relationship.

Claim 9 (Original) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 7, wherein, in the first position, the second pair of longitudinal edges are in spaced relationship, a space between the longitudinal edges being less than the diameter of the guidewire.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the first slit and the second slit are in substantial longitudinal alignment.

Claims 11 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the inflatable balloon ~~comprises~~ includes a third slit in substantial alignment with the first slit.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises a fourth lumen for receiving a stiffening member.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 12, further comprising a the stiffening member disposed in the third lumen.

Claim 14 (Original) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the first lumen and the second

lumen each comprise a passageway having a substantially circular cross-section disposed in a substantially solid tubular member.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein one of the first lumen and the second lumen comprises a passageway having a substantially circular shaped cross-section disposed in a substantially solid tubular member, and the other lumen comprises a passageway having a substantially semi-circular shaped cross-section disposed in a substantially solid tubular member.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the first slit extends along a proximal portion of the length of the tubular member.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the second opening comprises a ramp to direct a proximal end of the

guidewire through the second opening as the guidewire is moved proximally in the second lumen.

Claim 20 (Original) A catheterization kit comprising:

a guide catheter;
a guide wire; and
the balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1.

Claim 21 (Original) A stent-mounted balloon catheter comprising:

the balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1
and a stent mounted on the inflatable balloon of the catheter.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A balloon dilation catheter comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;

an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire along at least a portion of its length, the second lumen having (i) a first opening in the a proximal region of the tubular member and (ii) a second opening at the a distal region of the tubular member disposed between the distal end of the first slit and the inflatable balloon, the second lumen being circumferentially continuous in the region of the tubular member between the second opening and the inflatable balloon;

a first slit disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit permitting withdrawal of the guidewire from the second lumen; and

an adapter attached to the proximal region of the tubular member, the adaptor comprising a valve ~~comprising~~ having a second slit and third lumen for receiving the guidewire, the second lumen and the third lumen in communication with one another, the second slit comprising a pair of longitudinal edges in a side by side relationship, the valve being constructed of a resilient material such that, as the guidewire is separated from the third lumen, the longitudinal edges are biased open from a first position to a second position having a gap greater than or equal a diameter of the guidewire.